

Tales of Walnut Hill



By Robert Summa

Volume 6



Welcome to the Tales of Walnut Hill

We have a rich history we will share as you read this book. We will look at the past and the all-time greats that left their mark on the history of Walnut Hill: the masters of rifle shooting and pistol shooting. They generated the spirit of the Hill through competitive shooting. What they built and shot was a challenge. They were the distinguished shooters of the Hill. They came from all over the country to shoot at Walnut Hill. We have Harry Pope, the greatest barrel maker of his time and a master rifle shooter. We have Niedner, an all-time great, a master rifle shooter, and one of the top gun smiths of his time who chased Geronamo all over the southwest in the 6th Calvary. Then there is Dr. Mann, the father of ballistics, who in 1909 published *The Bullet's Flight* in his quest for the magic bullet and the magic barrel for the perfect score with the perfect rifle. He was a medical doctor and gave up his practice for his quest in ballistics. Then there are D. L. F. Chase, Ned Roberts, Horace Warner, H. V. Perry, Norman Brockway, C. W. Rowland, H. L. Willard, E. A. Leopold, W. V. Lowe, the Russell brothers, Arthur Corbin Gould, N. C. Nash, O. E. Gerrish, John Kelley, Will Hayes, Dr. W. G. Hudson, the great offhand shot Adolph Strecker, Dr. Baker, L. P. Hansen, Young, Mr. Fry, Daniel Fox, Major Hinman, F.J. Rabbeth and Professor Bell, Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Briggs, E. E. Patridge. All are the masters of the rifle. The masters of pistol are C. Paine, Tom Anderton, Eugene Patridge, and Dorothy Knight at Walnut Hill. The riflemen of the Hill, having looked at the American militia team's defeat at Creedmoor, decided to do something about it, so they trained a militia rifle team. Some were members of Walnut Hill and knew the game of long range shooting, and were sent to Creedmoor where they won every event entered. The Walnut Hill riflemen were men of stature: doctors, engineers, and masters of their trade. They were men that enjoyed the shooting sport and did all they could to preserve it for the future generations to come. They shot offhand at ranges of 600, 800, 900, and 1000 yards, holding the finest rifles of their day. H. Pope was the father of the gane twist rifle barrel. Pope and Niedner made barrels for Dr. Mann.

All proceeds from the selling of these books will go to the Massachusetts Rifle Association to preserve the history of the M.R.A. through our Museum. If you can help, I thank you. I am looking for old photos of Walnut Hill to share with our membership. The one thing I have learned about history: if someone does not record it, it is lost for all time. But these books will present a vast history which we will share with the world. As you read and look at all the photos, know the books will be a treasure for future generations after we have all come and gone. The books detail the Tales of Walnut Hill. And we will only print 100 books in each series, for this is truly a limited edition!

Robert Summa

M.R.A. Historian at the Walnut Hill Range

The Massachusetts Rifle Association

Tales of Walnut Hill

Volume 6

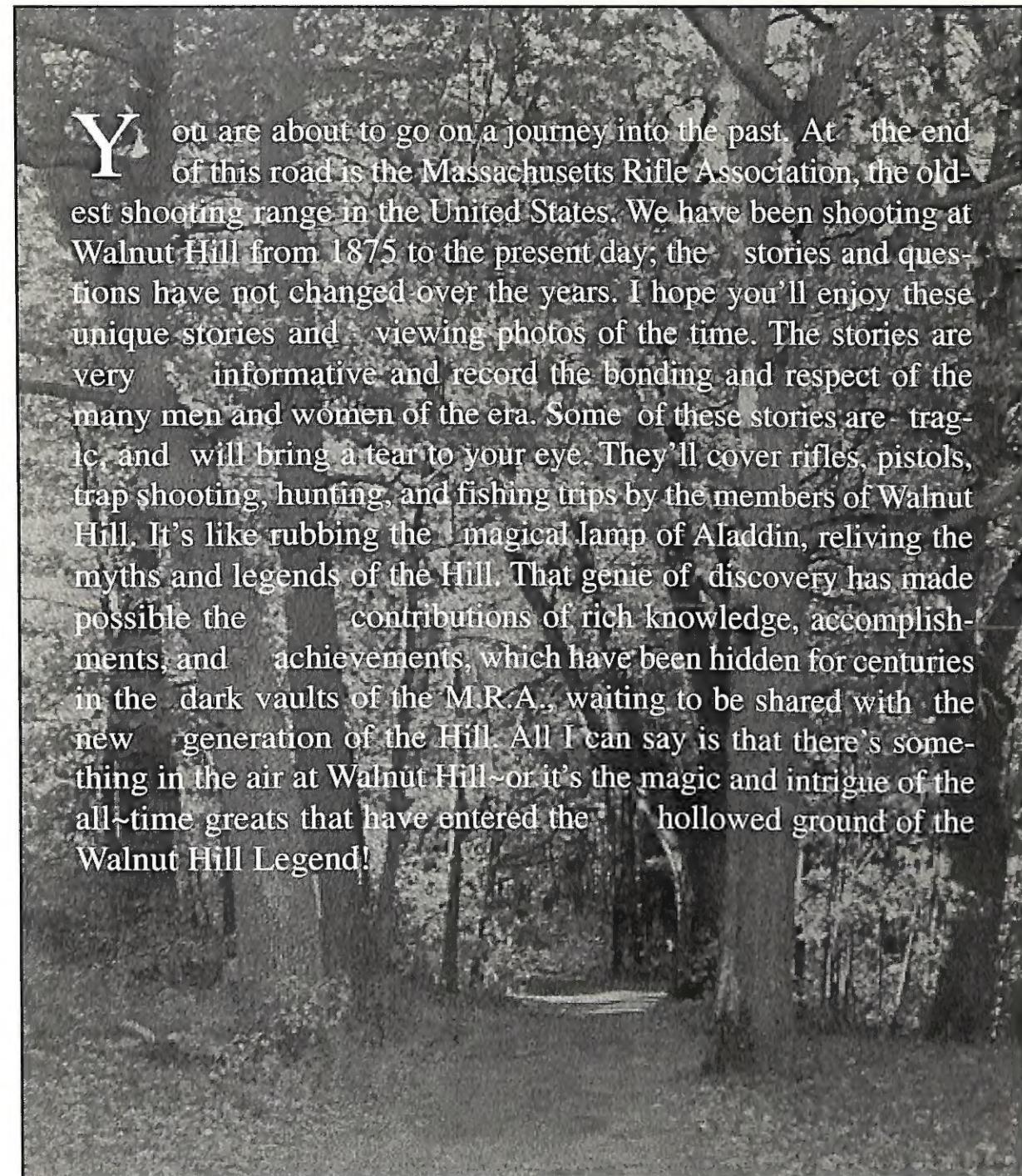
I dedicate this book to
Dom Cedrone
for all his help over the years

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Introduction

You are about to go on a journey into the past. At the end of this road is the Massachusetts Rifle Association, the oldest shooting range in the United States. We have been shooting at Walnut Hill from 1875 to the present day; the stories and questions have not changed over the years. I hope you'll enjoy these unique stories and viewing photos of the time. The stories are very informative and record the bonding and respect of the many men and women of the era. Some of these stories are tragic, and will bring a tear to your eye. They'll cover rifles, pistols, trap shooting, hunting, and fishing trips by the members of Walnut Hill. It's like rubbing the magical lamp of Aladdin, reliving the myths and legends of the Hill. That genie of discovery has made possible the contributions of rich knowledge, accomplishments, and achievements, which have been hidden for centuries in the dark vaults of the M.R.A., waiting to be shared with the new generation of the Hill. All I can say is that there's something in the air at Walnut Hill~or it's the magic and intrigue of the all-time greats that have entered the hollowed ground of the Walnut Hill Legend!



Miss Annie Oakley



Miss Annie Oakley vs. Charles Munson

The match between the best woman shot at live birds in the world and one of the best local shots of Dover, N.J., was settled at the Lake Denmark grounds last Thursday. The hotel and shooting grounds there are run by veteran Frank Class, formerly of the Driving park, Morristown. The location of the grounds, in so far as wild and picturesque beauty is concerned, is second to none, the only drawback being in the trouble of getting there. The train service consists of one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The first one compels an intending visitor, if residing in this vicinity, to get out of bed at an unearthly hour, and the second one compels a night away from home in order to be present at an early shooting. There are trains enough and to spare to Dover, but there one has to engage transportation for the seven miles that intervene between that station and the lake. I started at an early hour in order to go direct to the lake, as the hotel there is not a dozen rods in distance away from the station. In getting out of the car at Jersey City I stepped on a bit of ice and took a header, For the time being there was a knockout, which forced me to miss my train and compelled the use of conveyance in other fashion to reach the lake.

Reaching Dover I found B. Waters awaiting the arrival of some other individual, as he did not care to take the drive alone. The meeting was pleasant to both. A vehicle was soon procured and a start made. As there was considerable snow on the ground, we were soon in the sleigh, well enwrapped in furs, and off on our route to the music of jingling bells, And right here I wish to state that the sound of these jinglers is not half so musical as the rotund swelling melody of those sleigh bells of New England in the long ago, where the sound rose and fell on the frosty air as hollow and hill were traversed. That was music indeed, like unto cathedral chimes in the years that have fled. The country traversed was wild, one range succeeding another, each hill covered with a dense growth of saplings, with rock and earth showing through them from valley to summit, Part of the distance was through a wilderness, for not a house was seen for three miles; indeed, the only real signs of life were met when we reached the United States reservation, which comprises some thousands of acres.

Here is one of the places where the government receives from the DuPont Powder Co, part of its supplies of the celebrated Brown powder, and uses it in the manufacture of its ammunition for its big guns. such shells as were used by its ships at Manila and Santiago. As is ever the case under government control, the buildings on the reservation storehouses, manufactories and the homes of the superintendents and workmen-were synonymous with order and cleanliness. This vast acreage lies on one side of the road toward the lake on the south. On the north Frank Class has secured the shooting and fishing rights, under long lease, of as many thousand acres. As the government allows no trespassing upon its grounds, a few years ought to find this one of the best shooting preserves in the country.

It took an hour to cover the seven miles, and although it was cold, it was far from being unpleasant traveling. The lake reached, quite a gathering of sportsmen was found. Singular to say, there were almost as many representatives of the fair sex present as of the male. The attraction that brought them there was, without the slightest doubt, to see the shooting of Miss Oakley. The hotel is located on a little bluff overlooking the outlet of the lake, this formed by the building of the dam that makes the water power possible for the government's working plant. The waters thus confined make a lake running back some three miles; and beyond that again a marsh of almost as great extent, in width running from a quarter to three-quarters of a mile. The place is one of the most romantic kind, for the lake has on both its sides semimountains which rise in sharp incline several hundred feet, In summer it must be a charming spot, especially so for the lovers of angling, for Lake Denmark is not the only one in this vicinity where good fishing can be had. Not three miles away is Green pond, a naturally confined body of water which has been celebrated for years for its perch and pickerel fishing, but

Lake Denmark finds but few of either species in its waters, but to counterbalance that it possesses as fine black bass fishing-smallmouth principally as can be found in the state. Two big smallmouth were landed this last season-one weighed 6 1/2 and the other 7 1/4 pounds when they had reached Dover, some hours after they had been taken from the water.

The shooting grounds are located on a point of land almost surrounded by the waters of the lake. They are hardly large enough for the purposes demanded, as in order to obtain room enough there has to be used on the left side a bit of land which drops sharply down toward the lake, making it the most easy thing in the world for a contestant to overshoot his bird when its flight follows the lay of the land. The point rises to quite a height above the lake on three of its sides and at its upper edge; all around where the declivity commences is a fringe of young trees. Thus it may be imagined that the shooting conditions are not of the easiest sort.

The shooting was not started until after 1 P. M., and then with a little sweepstake at 7 birds with an entrance of \$3, two moneys, 30 yards rise. Only a half dozen entered.

Frank Class	2222212=7	Timmons	0122202=5
Johnston	2211222=7	Waters	0222201=5
Barnes	2210222=6	Smith	0202200=3

Immediately this was over the match between Miss Oakley and Charles Munson was called. The conditions were 25 birds for a purse of \$100, Munson to stand at 30 yards rise to 28 yards for Miss Oakley. The start was had at 2:16 o'clock and the match was shot in a little more than half an hour. The trapping was done in capital fashion, as speedily as it was well done, while the retrieving by little Sank, the one eyed cross bred setter and spaniel that gained such renown for his work at the old Morris-town Driving park grounds, was of the best; he is one of the cleverest, even now, in this line that I know of.

Miss A. Oakley, Nutley NJ.....11221 21111 11122 22*22 1*212=23
Charles Munson Dover NJ.....22120 22222 000*0 02222 22220=17

That Miss Annie won the match is not to be wondered at, for if ever was seen a bit of fine shooting skill it was shown in this case. The writer, who has known her ability in this line, was simply astounded at the exhibition she gave. Never have I seen a better bit of work than she showed on this occasion. I am not writing any complimentary notice, for when a woman takes up the gantlet in a shooting contest against a man, her work must be judged the same as that of her opponent, from a common standpoint. I must confess I have seen a good many of the women shots of this country, but never saw such shooting form at any time as was here shown by Miss Annie. It was a revelation. Not alone was she accurate in aim, but she was remarkably so. There was no wing tip business or scratch work scoring credits. The work was as quick as it was accurate; indeed, it was admirable throughout. Her manner of holding the gun was in old Hurlingham style, the butt below the armpit, but when the order, Pull, was given, it went to the shoulder with a celerity that was marvelous. Then the shots followed so quickly that it seemed as if the triggers were pressed when the stock struck the shoulder. What is more, this same time was continued from the beginning to the close with not the slightest change. This quickness in time was the most important factor in Munson's defeat. His time was tardy in the extreme. He waited so many seconds after the opening of the traps before pressing the triggers that to the uninitiated it looked as if he was getting the best birds by far. Seldom did he kill a bird that fell anywhere near the trap from which it was

released, while time after time Miss Oakley stopped her birds so quickly that they fell within one or two yards of the opened trap.

The wind was blowing quite freshly across the line of traps from right to left so that very many of the pigeons became left quarterers in their flights. Miss Oakley had outgoers to right, to left, 2 circling left quarterers, direct left quarterers and 2 right quarterers, 1 direct incomer, which fell dead just over the back boundary, 1 towering outgoer to right and hoverers, these last killed so quickly that they had no time to take on a flight direction. Her 25th bird lingered on the trap when it opened. After a wait of a few seconds it was shot on the ground purposely, another being allowed in its place according to rule. Her fastest birds came in rounds 4, 6, 10, 11, and 17. Each of these was a hummer. Twelve of the 23 kills were stopped with a single shot. The direction of the wind made the hardest traps for the birds to come from No, 1 and 2, owing to its carrying them down wind speedily and the dropping away of the land from those traps to the boundary line on the left. No, 1 opened six times, No. 2, six times, No. 4, five times, and No. 5, four times, The order of opening was:

15411 41422 53114 25223 42353

Miss Oakley used a new Francotte gun weighing 6 pounds 10 ounces, U. M. C. Smokeless cases charged with 42 grains of E. C. powder and 1 1/8 ounces of No, 7 shot.

Munson had 2 direct straightaways, outgoers to right, 1 circling flyer of same direction, 5 outgoers to left, right and left quarterers, 1 direct incomer, 2 incoming flyers to right and 1 to left, and 1 ugly twister; 21st round a fast incomer, which was very handsomely stopped almost at the wire. His fastest birds came in rounds 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 18, and 24. These were all of the speediest sort, Six of his eight misses were made on birds flying to the left, this seems to denote that this was Munson's weak point. His 25th bird was the circling outgoer to right, and it was one that anybody might have missed. Munson started in, I fancied, in somewhat nervous manner. His first bird was shot on the ground, and the referee ordered another shot at. Possibly this caused his excitement, for it was real, and not apparent. His traps were in order:

12324 52232 43242 55222 52245

No. 1, a single time, No. 2, twelve times, No. 3, three times, No. 4, four times, and No. 5, five times. Munson used a Parker gun weighing 7 1/2 pounds, U. M. C. trap cases, charged with 48 grains Schultze powder and 1 1/4 ounces No. 7 shot.

No sooner was the above contest finished than Michael Holley challenged Munson to shoot a match at 15 birds each, for the cost of the birds and a \$5 note. Thinking this a chance to pull up a little, Munson accepted the challenged promptly, but demanded that his opponent, who shot a 10 gauge gun, should stand at 30 yards rise to his 28. This was conceded. Munson led off, but soon showed his want of form on this afternoon. In view of his recent work, which was known to many of the spectators, he would have been a big favorite in both his matches had there been any money invested. I was informed that in a little practice work a day or so before the contests came off, that he had on one occasion killed 23 out of 25 shot at, and the next day followed up that good work by killing 15 straight. This naturally made his friends very confident as to the outcome of his match with Miss Oakley:

Michael Holley 30 yards-00120 12222 22=9
Chas. Munson 28 yards-11002 00202 00w

As it was impossible to even tie Holley's score at finish of 12th round, Munson withdrew. No sooner had Munson withdrawn than two of the men present made a little match at 5 birds, for \$2 a side and the price of the pigeons. It proved to be a veritable walkover for the winner:

Richards 00111=3
Froseen 00000=0

A single sweepstake afterward virtually closed the shooting of the day. Only four men took part in it. It was at 5 birds, \$3 entrance each:

Hingham	2222202=6
Orr	2201122=6
Barker	0212221=6
Holly	0000010=1

B. Waters and myself availed ourselves of the one train which ran from the mines to Port Oram, connecting at the Morris county railroad junction with that of a train for Dover. While tedious it was far less expensive than sleigh riding, and we were treated to a sight of something that sent the blood boiling through our bodies in great shape. Our one train stopped just before reaching the junction, so that we had to leave it and walk a few rods to get to the station. To the right of the track the land fell away to a low level, a sort of half marsh well grown to tall weeds and grasses. To the left it rose just as sharply as was the descent to the right, the hill being crowned with a thin line of underbrush. As we neared the station a sharp blast of the locomotive's whistle started from the marsh a covey of quail. They rose in the air, flew directly over our heads, and dropped in the bushes at the top of the high ground. There was lots of time to count them, for they were in plain and open sight from the time they broke cover until they dropped in the bushes above. The number of the birds was 31, and the sight was a beautiful one. The birds did not seem much startled, for they did not fly with half the speed I have seen displayed on other occasions. What a splendid chance for shooting next season should those birds survive the rigors of the present winter, and live to separate and breed next spring and summer. It is to be hoped such will be the case. If only when the deep snows come some kindhearted person would but scatter a little feed where the birds could get at it, such a one should receive the benison of every sportsman of that vicinity.



Stevens pocket pistol

A Knife for Sportsmen

In these days almost every tool required by sportsmen is supplied, but sometimes the manufacturer is not a practical sportsman and supplies superfluous articles and omits those for which there is frequent use.

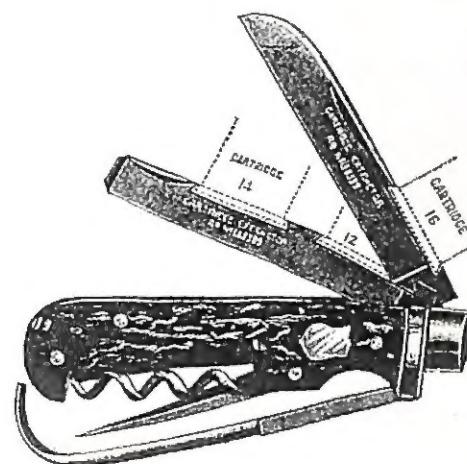
I recently saw illustrated in an English trade paper a knife for sportsmen, which seems so practical that I send it to the editor, hoping he may think it of sufficient value to reproduce, and perhaps thereby influence some American manufacturer to make a similar knife. A knife is almost always in the pocket of a sportsman, a shell extractor only occasionally, notwithstanding it is one of the most useful articles. A screwdriver is at times a most useful article; yet how many sportsmen carry one in their pockets?

It is a common occurrence to get a swollen shell stuck in the chamber of a gun or a rifle. In most cases such shell can be removed by the aid of an extractor, and what a convenience it would be to have extractors for a 10 or 12-bore shotgun and for a .24 and .25 calibre rifle shell attached to your pocket-knife.

Twice within a month I have had shell stick when afield-once in my 12-bore Colt's gun and once in my .25-caliber rifle. Neither of these mishaps were due to any fault of the firearms.

The shell extractor will not always do the business. Recently I found a loaded shot shell stuck in my gun, owing to the damp weather swelling the shell. I could not get it in the chamber far enough to close the action. I tried to pull the shell out, and pulled off the head. There was nothing left for me to do but unload the shell and dig it out of the chamber. A combination knife like the one illustrated would have speedily extricated me from my predicament.

I would like to say a few words in reference to the waterproof qualities of shells, I have weighed carefully the merits of those on the market, and the Climax, according to my observations, is superior to all, I was obliged to throw away a great many loaded shells of a certain make. They went into the chamber well enough until they were exposed to dampness and rain, when they swelled so at the point where the wads were that I could not use them. The Climax shells were loaded with the same wads, and although they were exposed and wet with rain, not one of them swelled so as to cause me any trouble. F. Ussie.



Military Shooting at Walnut Hill

As the result of the recent accidental wounding of a member of the Massachusetts militia by a comrade while on the grounds of the Massachusetts Rifle Association at Walnut Hill, a new regulation has been passed by the board of directors of the M. R. A. which prohibits any military shooting on Wednesdays or Saturdays by others than members of the association or marksmen of the second class, or of higher rank. This notice was posted in a conspicuous place to-day, and met with the approval of both members of the association and the members of the militia who were present.

The run of consecutive shots counting 10 or higher made by Mr. J. Francis on Wednesday last was the subject of considerable talk when it was learned that the shooting had been done with a rifle which the owner thought had been shot out, the rifle being the one with which Mr. Francis made two scores of 119 each, beside scores of 116 and 117 on the same day. While the rifle shot well for some time after the above performances, its owner thought that it did not shoot as well as it ought, so it had been laid aside for some time, until recently, when Mr. Francis subjected it to a little heroic treatment, which consisted of using upon the bands a brass plug, upon which was used oil and fine emery, which removed the smooth surface caused by the continuous shooting of the arm.

The Diamond Model Pistol

There are many things at which the writer would express no surprise. The ignis fatuus, otherwise known as the possible 120 at rest, has never, to the writer's knowledge, been scored; yet it has been so nearly approached as to leave it among the possibilities. The possible 100 on the off-hand target may yet be made. But one of the greatest surprises of my life was received when Major Charles, at Walnut Hill, rolled up a score of 95 at 50 yards with a Stevens Diamond Model six-inch pistol. The indications have been rather threatening for some time past that the major and the little pistol would do something to startle the fraternity, but this performance was wholly unlooked for by most of our pistol shooters, and proves what has often been stated before, that "the major will get there' with any kind of gun." For an all-round average shot with any kind of a rifle or pistol he has few equals. Amateur.

Miss Annie Oakley 1898

July 11, 1898. Miss Annie Oakley, who is now in London with the Wild West show, visited the Hurlingham Club on July 11 and shot in the sweepstakes. It is certainly wonderful how popular the little lady markswoman has become in England. The press has given her the most elaborate notices, and her picture has been published in nearly all the illustrated papers.



Spanish Mauser 7 M/M

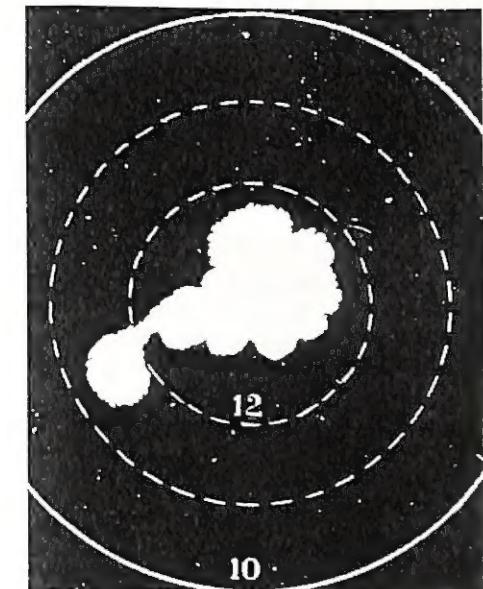
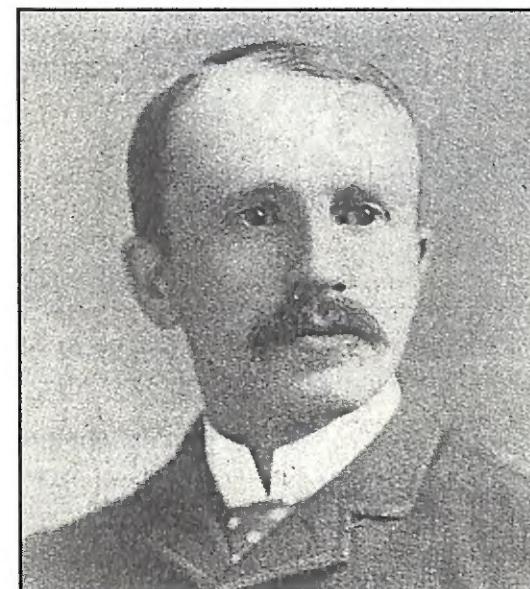
Draw Pocker applied to Rifle Shooting

At a gathering of rifle shooters in one of our prominent parks last week was introduced something new in connection with rifle shooting. The idea was suggested, I believe, by a gentleman well known in the law profession, and who has a weakness for the rifle. The suggestion was to apply the rules of draw poker to rifle scores, and the application, as I remember it, was something like this: Each shooter engaged in the game fired five shots, which constituted his hand (cards). From his score he was permitted to scratch (discard), not to exceed two shots (cards). Then he was entitled to shoot (draw) a number of shots to correspond with the number scratched out (discarded), in order to fill his score; then the winning score was determined under the rules of draw poker.

I am informed that this party of shooters spent the entire afternoon shooting under the above rules, and that the only thing that prevented the game from terminating in a "freeze-out" was the want of lamps at the targets. Next!

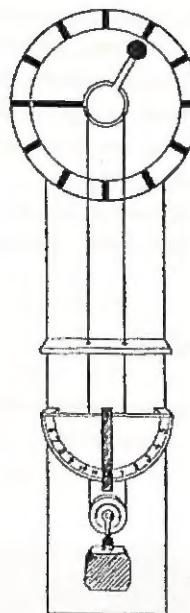
E. E. Patridge at Walnut Hill 1899

September 2, 1899. A score of 119 out of a possible 120 points on the Standard target, at 200 yards, rest by E. E. Patridge at Walnut Hill, Mass., Sept. 2. Mr. Patridge also scored thirteen consecutive 12's, beginning with the sixth shot in the preceding score. This is one less than the high run made by D. L. F. Chase. Reproduced exact size.



Winchester single shot Rifle

Improved Target Index



I am in for improvements, and since my visit to Walnut Hill, where I saw the perfect working of Mr. Soule's clock, it has occurred to me that I could make an addition to it; so have made a clock for our range, which works to perfection.

I wish to give to the shooting fraternity who use a clock what I think is of great merit, as it dispenses with the telescope, and one can get the value and location of the shot before leaving the stand or bench, which is desirable if one wishes to obtain the elevation or windgauge.

My addition to the Soule clock is this: I put a flanged pulley on the spindle. This pulley has a hand, or pointer, at the outer end of which is a disc inches in diameter. This disc is painted black; the pulley and pointer are white, so that it cannot be distinguished from the face of the clock. I then wind a cord twice around the pulley, letting the ends hang down in front of the clock. Each end passes through holes in a board nailed to the clock. This will guide the cords and hold them steady. The ends then pass down below the semicircle or indicator, and through a pulley on a weight, which weighs from 6 to 8 pounds. This weight keeps the cord taut, whether it is wet or dry, and from slipping on the pulley while operating it.

In using the clock, after the boy has given the valuation of the shot by moving the indicator, he takes hold of the cord with each hand and pulls it up or down until the disc is in front of the time to be indicated-requiring only a moment to accomplish it. S. A. Skinner, M.D. Hoosick Falls, N.Y.

Statement by Mr. Rabbeth 1899

September 26, 1899. Referring to your comments in your issue of Sept. 26, have to say that what misled me in the use of Laflin & Rand Smokeless rifle powder, was that it was labeled for use in low power rifles. I therefore assumed that it was less powerful than powder for high power rifles, and that the same bulk must be safe. Of course I had no means of weighing the powder at the range. I think it would be well if the powder companies would state the proper charge by black powder measure, as all riflemen have these.

This is the second rifle I have destroyed with nitro powder. The first was with Ditmar, more than twenty years ago. I did not escape wholly unscathed then, having my watch smashed in my pocket and a badly cut trigger finger, but I have graduated now and don't expect more accidents of this nature. F. J. Rabbeth.



Winchester Schuetzen Rifle

Luncheon Hour at Walnut Hill 1899



Luncheon and Logic.

Sportsmen who have visited Walnut Hill, the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, are not likely to forget the luncheon hour. The bracing air of that charming resort gives one an unusual appetite, and probably one will hear frequent inquiries as to whether or not luncheon is ready.

Range master Kendall provides a bountiful repast, somewhat homely in character perhaps, but wholesome and nutritious. The farfamed Boston baked beans form a conspicuous part of the menu, and corned beef, apple pie, doughnut's and milk are almost certain to make up the remainder of the bill of fare. Hot coffee is also served, but intoxicating liquors of every variety are barred at this range.

At the cry of "Luncheon" the assembled riflemen, unless they have scores nearly finished, immediately repair to the dining room of the clubhouse. While the meal is partaken of there are more questions on ballistics evolved than would fill a good sized volume. The merits of the various powders are discussed; the value of particular rifles and charges for target and game shooting are talked over in the most erudite manner. Generally there is some member who has just returned from a successful hunt, and it is likely that the full account of his adventures will be recited for the benefit of willing listeners. Now and then a target is passed around to show the merits of some particular charge, and occasionally firearms are traded around the festive board.

The accompanying illustration shows a number of prominent riflemen partaking of the noonday luncheon at Walnut Hill range.

Gleanings from Walnut Hill 1899

June 15, 1899. I have frequently, while watching the shooters at the pistol target on the Walnut Hill range, noticed two or three reports so blended into one that had I not been looking I should have supposed that only one pistol had been fired.

To discharge their pistols at once, and so nearly at the same instant, would take a great deal of training. But accidents will happen, and that kind of simultaneous discharge seems to be one of them.

If one will take the trouble to look around a bit he may see a number of rifles mounted with telescope sights where one could have been found a dozen years ago. Many new designs are noted recently for mounting the telescopes on rifles. Some difference of opinion exists regarding the value of the telescope for raising one's scores. While it may not be the means of making perfect scores, no one seems to make poorer ones by its use, and many riflemen say they do their work easy with them.

Pistol shooters are of late considerably interested in the Wurfflein pistol, which is a new comer in this section. Judging from the manner in which the first arrival started off recently, and some of the talk heard on the range, the pistol promises to become a formidable rival of those which have held the fort here so long. Pistol shooters are waiting anxiously for still another make, which has been promised for some time past.

Almost every one who has not visited Walnut Hill for a year or more is struck with the great change which has been wrought there, and particularly the increased interest shown in pistol shooting. It is stated that several gentlemen who now visit the range do so for the express purpose of practicing with the pistol and do not shoot the rifle at all. It is a very nice, neat way of spending a half holiday, and ample accommodations are furnished there for the sport.

I recently noticed one of our veteran riflemen who said he had become very impatient and was greatly annoyed at the manner in which his rifle performed, and had determined to adopt desperate measures or heroic treatment for it. A patched bullet coated with emery was seated in the barrel, a shell full of powder was inserted and the barrel scoured out. He remarked half an hour later that the gun was shooting better than before, but he added, "I would not advise any one else to do it."

Considerable talk is heard among riflemen concerning the new metal jacketed bullets which are to be used in the new United States and other military rifles. There are many opinions regarding the life of the rifle when using such ammunition, but all concede that that style of bullet must be rough on the gun. Estimates I have heard place the life of the barrel all the way from 1,000 to 5,000 shots. No lubricant is supposed to be used with them.

A muzzleloading breechloader of .25-caliber, having an eight-inch twist, was noticed at work one day recently at Walnut Hill. The writer watched the working of it with much interest until it rolled out a score of 101 at rest, with all the shots in the bull. "That is good enough in this wind," remarked a bystander, and the writer agrees with him. But it is a great gun for calm weather, although of small caliber. A heavy charge of powder and 104 grains of lead gets there.

Almost any holiday, or when there is a big shoot in progress at Walnut Hill, when everybody and his friends are present, one may see almost all kinds of modern rifles, revolvers and pistols at work, and some that are not so modern. These gentlemen without doubt enjoy their shooting as much as those who shoot the latest edition, and so long as they observe the rules are just as welcome to shoot them. But one day recently when an old-style Colt's navy was used there it captured the firing point and the other shooters left instantaneously.

Regarding the fine location and pure air at the Walnut Hill range, it is one of the signs of the great good it does one to go there to note how suddenly the firing ceases when the rangemaster sings his song of "Dinner! Dinner!" Then there are no shirks, each man is ready and willing to do his duty, and does it, providing there is room at the table, it is a pleasant location indeed, and there is some strong talk of adding more land to the range. It can easily be done, and many are in favor of it.

The solid comfort one finds during these warm days at the new club house tempts him to neglect his shooting and enjoy the balmy breezes upon the piazzas of the commodious building. As a summer resort the new house is a grand success, while the winter pleasure-seeker finds a warm stove and comfortable quarters from which he may send his bullets down to the targets and note the effects of his shots from the same comfortable position. Quite different from standing in the snow and making the shot with chattering teeth and numbed fingers.

R.

Great Pistol Shooting May 8, 1899

May 8, 1899. Making a perfect score at prescribed distance, with regulation fire arms and under recognized rules, is always an interesting performance. Last Saturday, Thomas Anderton, of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, succeeded in recording a perfect score of 100 points in ten shots with a pistol at 50 yards, in the regular club competition. Once before has this record been reached in outdoor shooting with a pistol under like conditions, but never before on the famous Walnut Hill range, where for over fourteen years some of the best pistol shots in America have vainly striven to secure that aggregate. Besides obtaining the great ten shot record, Mr. Anderton surpassed the thirty shot Standard American record by one point, his aggregate being 283 points, against two record scores of 282 points credited to H. S. Harris May 30, 1893, and Dec. 30, 1893, respectively. The feat was a great one, and deserving of high commendation.

Walnut Hill 1899

April 10, 1899. Mrs. Briggs has taken to shooting a .38 Colt's revolver in the revolver medal match, the six shots to be fired in one minute, and is meeting with good success, too.

Tom Anderton is wondering where the cut of his hand, which appears in the advertising columns of Shooting and Fishing was obtained. He says it is his hand all right, but he does not know how it got there. Tom says the pistol presented to him by Smith & Wesson is the most accurate one he has shot, and that but for the wind on Labor day he would have had another perfect score, the four 9's barely missing the 10 ring.

Poor Eastman is having lots of trouble with his eyes, and said recently he thought he would have to give up all shooting for a while,

(see page 40 top photo.)

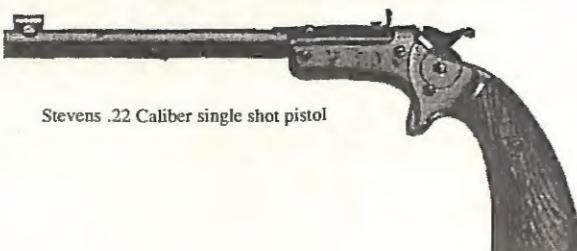
Several years ago Mr. George R. Russell, the expert bullet maker of Boston, was engaged in molding bullets, and being interrupted in his work he laid aside his mold for a brief time. On resuming work he picked up his mold hurriedly, and without looking at it run a bullet. On opening the mold he discovered that in picking up the mold he had unintentionally shut a piece of paper in it, and when the lead was poured into the mold the bullet was cast with the piece of paper in its centre, leaving it as if split down to the first cannelure. Mr. Russell's curiosity was aroused, and he wondered why the paper was not burned by the molten lead. He cast another bullet with a piece of paper purposely inserted, with the same result. He molded bullets split, by aid of the paper, from the first cannelure down to the point, half way to the point, and in various ways. These bullets were shown to Capt Russell of the U.S. Army, and by him sent to West Point.

Walnut Hill Notes

The many friends of the veteran rifleman, Mr. Salem Wilder, will regret to learn that he recently met with a painful, although not serious accident. He strained the cords of one of his knees, obliging him to use a cane in walking. It will be some weeks before he can walk without the aid of a walking stick. It is the wish of his many friends that he may soon be seen in his old place at Walnut Hill.

The range, accuracy and penetration of the diminutive .22-caliber cartridge is often underestimated by the average rifleman, a good example of its range was afforded to-day at Walnut Hill. Dr. Louis Bell, having become tired of what he called his poor work at the 50-yards target (his poor work, by the way, consisting of eight scores, none of which were below 91 or above 92), thought he would see what he could do, as a first attempt, at 200 yards, using his Gould model Stevens pistol, chambered for the .22 long-rifle cartridge. The doctor shot but one score, which counted 33 by Creedmoor count, all of the shots being on the target, a score as high as many obtain with arms of larger growth.

The experts at Walnut Hill are awaiting the completion and trial of a new caliber rifle with some little degree of expectation. Mr. Albert Law, a well known member and fine mechanic, who has in his leisure time rifled several barrels, has recently rifled a .28-caliber. The shells were drawn down from a .32-caliber, and will hold about 32 grains of powder; the bullets will weigh from 140 to 146 grains. The rifling is a beautiful piece of work, and if good workmanship will ensure a fine shooting arm, the .28-caliber ought to be among the best.



Stevens .22 Caliber single shot pistol

Walnut Hill Gleanings

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"Well, Smith is dead sure of first; it's a toss up between Jones and Brown for second and third, and Johnson will get fourth all right. Guess I'll stay out."

It pans out as he reasons. The shooters blow in, between them, say \$25, and the club is out \$25, besides its expenses. On the other hand, take that \$53 and put it into ten or twelve merchandise prizes, drawing upon the imagination, if you will, for their valuation, and you have enough to go round, especially if there are several matches rest, offhand, pistol, etc.; the beginner feels elated at the possibility of winning a prize; values are lost sight of, and a real competition ensues for top place. Probably-almost invariably-some lesser light gets a streak of shooting on and makes Smith hustle for first place, and everybody has a good time, for it is a good, healthy race, and when the accounts are balanced the club is ahead.

There is no theorizing in the above illustrations. They are cold, hard facts, brought under the personal observation of the writer during the past five years. It is astonishing how a man will fight for a trophy. I have seen a competitor in a military match buy \$19 worth of tickets to win a cup costing \$8 or \$10, when in a later match that same man scanned a list of money prizes carefully to see if he stood a chance of getting his money back. And the cup match paid, while the cash match went behind two-thirds of the value of the prizes.

The development of the bicycle has carried with it the change from a sprocket wheel and chain to bevel gears, but the latest improvement at Walnut Hill has progressed in exactly the opposite direction. The old clock dial indicators, for marking shots, were made with bevel gears, a rod from the driving gear reaching well down into the pit, and having a short lever attached at right angles for operating the hand on the dial, as the natural wear and tear on the gear, together with the added effect of the general cussedness of the boy markers, rendered the marking inaccurate and caused no end of trouble, the inventive brain of Mr. Chase was called upon to supply the remedy, and be, a bicycle crank, too, produced an indicator with sprocket wheels and a bicycle chain, which works perfectly and appears strong enough to require a safe-breaking kit to tamper with it in any way. One can't tell, though, where boys are concerned.

And that reminds me. I was told the other day of a case in which the eighteen months old child of a friend of mine succeeded in breaking a metal inkstand with its unaided hands. They afterward tried to break up the rest with a hammer.

That 39, Columbia count, made by J. E. Kelley on April 1, is liable to stand as a M. R. A. record for some time to come, and it was made with a common Winchester rifle, with greased bullets, too. Two years ago nobody but the military shooters used greased bullets at Walnut Hill. Now but one shooter besides the rest cranks uses patched bullets, and he shoots a .35 caliber rifle, for which no satisfactory greased bullet has yet appeared.

A number of the captured Spanish Mauser rifles found their way to Boston, and some time

ago four newspaper men shot a Mauser match at Walnut Hill with Spanish ammunition. One of them, J. N. Taylor, who represented the *Globe* at the front, made 45 Creedmoor on his first score, The rifles all shot well, and it is evident that it was due to no fault of the guns and ammunition that more of our men were not Killed (see photo on page 11.)

New bullet stops are to be erected as a more efficient protection against high power rifles, and a number of shots were fired into a box full of stones as an experiment. Upon dumping out the stones the lead cores were found to have entirely disappeared, and of the five or six bullets but two or three small pieces of the steel jacket were found. At a distance of six or seven inches into the stones all signs of the impact disappeared, and it was agreed that a bulkhead one foot thick, with a filling of stones about two or three inches in diameter, was sufficient protection.

An ingenious method of exhibiting the contents of a Mauser cartridge was shown by a member. The bullet was extracted and cut in halves longitudinally, The shell was then emptied of its contents and treated likewise, after which the half bullet was placed in the remnant of the shell, which was then filled with powder and fastened to a small strip of glass, so that the powder, shell, primer and bullet could be seen through the glass, The steel jacket was of surprising thickness; about the same as the cartridge case.

W. P. Spencer Chelsea, Mass.

Notes from Chatham

July 8, 1899. There have been quite a number of sportsmen at the Chatham Beach Hotel during the past week. Among them were the following: Mr. Salem Wilder, Mr. Henry S. Harris, Mr. F. J. Rabbeth, Mr. Warren Hapgood and Prof. Fletcher Osgood, and others from Boston, Springfield and elsewhere, the wives of many of the sportsmen accompanying them.

Birds have been shot in fair numbers, though most of them are small birds; a fair number of beetle-heads, brown-backs and summer yellow-legs have been brought to bag. It is a little early for sanderlings and redbreasts, but they will be here soon.

Blue-fishing has been excellent, during the past week. On Thursday last, nine were taken on handlines in front of the house, and yesterday eight were captured inside of half an hours time; some of them were caught within a hundred yards of the hotel. Occasionally a striped bass is taken here while fishing for blue-fish.

Chatham Beach Hotel is fast becoming a resort for sportsmen and their families. It is not a resort for those desiring gunning solely; but for those who wish to secure fair shooting and have their family with them there is no better place in New England. Lobsters are taken a mile out to sea in front of the hotel and have that delicious flavor of the ocean. Blue-fish are often captured and served at the tables on the same day, and birds are shot in quantity enough to keep the table supplied and furnish good sport.

R. G.

Walnut Hill Gleanings

May 6, 1899. H. M. Pope has no cause for complaint in the reception accorded his goods by the M. R. A. members, as he will shortly be represented by five barrels in the hands of J. Busfield, .32-40; H. Hutchinson, .38-55 and .32-40; C. B. Pratt, .38-55; and W. M. Foster, .28 caliber. Hutchinson has just received his, and shot the .38 caliber on May 6, securing a score of 90, which is not so bad for a new gun. He intends using the .32 caliber barrel next Saturday, by which time Pratt will probably have his in commission. The groups shot in testing these barrels by the maker were fine, and one of them would count 116 on the Standard target.

Tom Anderton has strained his pistol badly in the last two weeks. He declares it is shot out, but the scores made by it would probably satisfy the majority of pistol shooters that the inside of the arm was all right. Anderton declares, however, that he occasionally gets wild shots on perfect holds, and nobody I know of is more competent to call 10's.

Dr. Baker is away, in Vermont, shooting woodchucks with a .25-21 Winchester barrel mounted, if my memory serves, in a Ballard action. The barrel was chambered and fitted into the action by Albert Law, a sufficient guaranty of the workmanship, and is a splendid shooting arm. Dr. Baker did not say when we are to expect the first shipment of chuck tails.

James Busfield is down in Maine on some predatory excursion, fishing I presume. Having landed his Victory medal, he can afford to take life easy for awhile.

E. E. Patridge has also appeared with a new gun in the shape of an' 8-inch barrel for his .44 caliber Russian model Smith & Wesson revolver, it is a splendid hanging arm and should, theoretically, do better work than the regulation length.

Dr. Bell spent an afternoon recently in testing the Laflin & Rand nitro in his .44 Russian model Smith & Wesson. Fair results were obtained, and it shot wonderfully clean, but the doctor was of the opinion that the grains were too large for perfectly accurate shooting. The new powder has also been shot by J. E. Kelly offhand and Dr. Baker at rest, and all agree that it needs a very hard bullet or it will lead the bore.

The Massachusetts Rifle Association has added to its equipment a Pope machine rest, and every shooter will now have a chance to test his pet loads.

Harold Hutchinson credits me with having heralded his advance toward the ranks of the expert rifle shots with unnecessary enthusiasm; so that the next class match will probably find him in class A. Well, for shooter whose best score to the middle of last July was 76, to advance in that short time to scores of 90 and over, including 93, calls for more than a passing notice; and when the fact is also taken into consideration that he has divided his time to include pistol and revolver shooting and has won nearly the whole string of these medals, I think it is a splendid showing. He will be in good company, anyhow. Of course, this was not accomplished without an immense amount of shooting. I have no hesitation in stating that Mr. Hutchinson has done twenty-five percent more shooting in the past year than any other member, having attended nearly every shoot, Wednesdays included.

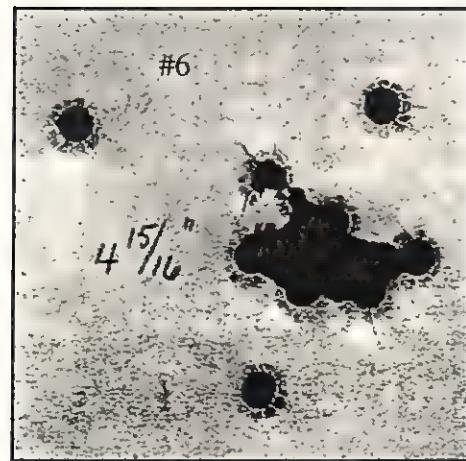
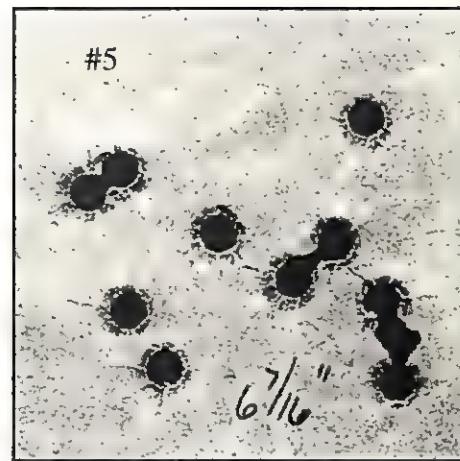
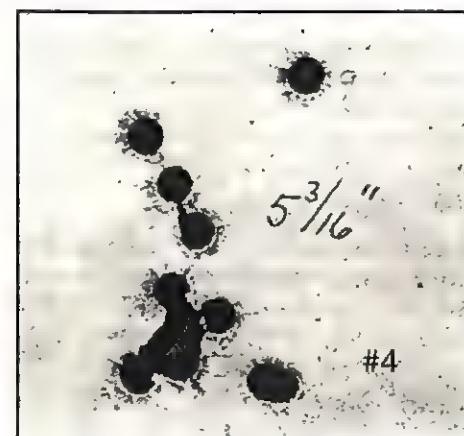
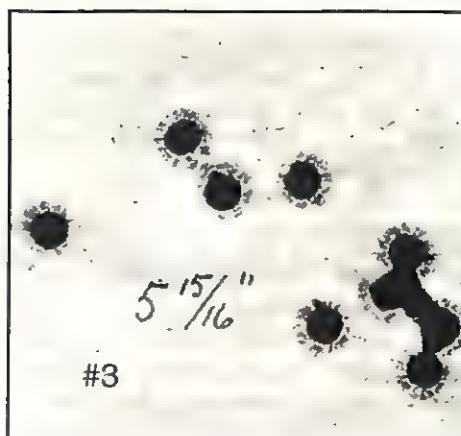
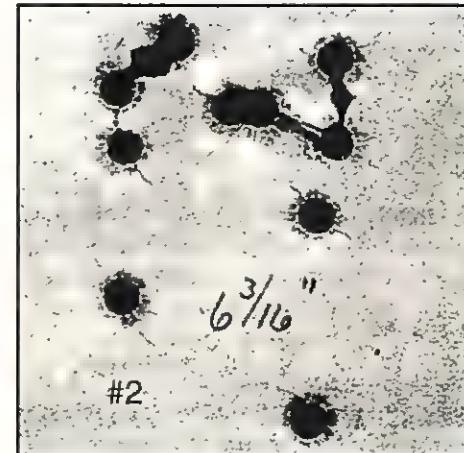
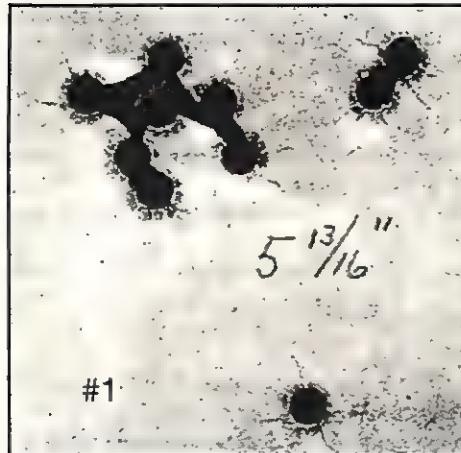
And herein lies the main secret of success in rifle shooting. Get a good rifle the best on the market is none too good and when you have found a perfect load for it, stick to that rifle and that load like grim death and shoot all you can. Above all things do not shoot carelessly. Deliver every shot for all it is worth. I find that many things in rifle shooting resemble the musical profession some persons imagine any old instrument or rifle will do to learn on, and no greater mistake was ever made. Either accomplishment is difficult enough at the best, but if the beginner is handicapped at the start by poor tools, what wonder that he is easily discouraged.

Chelsea, Mass. W. F. Spencex.

Remarkable Rifle Shooting 1899

H. M. Pope, of Hartford, Conn., recently finished making a rifle barrel for a customer, and as is his custom, tested it before sending it away. He fired sixty consecutive shots at 200 yards from a machine rest, shooting for groups in ten-shot scores. The barrel is a .32 caliber; it was loaded from the muzzle. The shell was primed with nitro powder and filled with Hazard FG powder. The bullet weighed 200 grains and was cast 1 to 30. The weather conditions were nearly perfect, he having bother from wind on but four shots. The rifle was shot without cleaning. Mr. Pope says:

"The sixty shots were fired in about 1 hour and 20 minutes. Just as my finger touched the trigger on the sixtieth shot the flags swung out, and I said to my companion, I would give \$10 to have that shot back. I'm afraid it is about one inch left and on looking through the scope I found it so. Had this gone into the bunch it would have made my closest group. The entire sixty shots measure 34 1/2 inches, string measure, from center of groups."



Walnut Hill 1899

August 26, 1899. Walnut Hill will soon be enlivened by the presence of the militia, the appropriation for target hire having just been passed. This will be its first appearance in regular practice since the beginning of the war with Spain.

I learned recently (Aug. 26) that N. Spering, of the Philadelphia Rifle Association, expects to visit us soon. We shall be more than pleased to see him at Walnut Hill, and I hope he will not get a shot out of the 10 ring all day.

Dr. Baker is visiting Medicus at Hoosic Falls, N.Y., on another woodchuck hunt. We hope he will shoot full grown foxes this time, if any.

H. Hutchinson is off on another vacation, having to his and his fellow shooters' satisfaction completed his Victory medal scores.

There must be something in that medal which creates a roving disposition in the whiner, for Dr. Baker no sooner completed his scores than he went away, and our treasurer, Gleason, having attained his much longed for medal, left for Europe for a two months' trip. Keough hustled off for Porto Rico with the Fifth Regiment M. V. M. as soon as his was won, and Coombs has also disappeared.

Harold Hutchinson has generously presented to the association a trophy to be shot for off-hand under handicap rules, twenty scores of ten shots being required, the best aggregate taking the trophy, which becomes the property of the winner. The match opened Saturday, Sept. 2. Scores may be shot at any time; no special entry fee.

Tom Anderton is in fine humor just at present. Besides receiving from the association a sterling cup, which is a standing offer to members breaking any of the range records, he has just received from Smith & Wesson an elegantly engraved target pistol, on the lockplate of which is the inscription: Presented to Thomas Anderton for a perfect score, May 13, 1899." Several other members immediately announced their intention to make clean scores.

Chelsea, Mass. W. F. Spencr.

Tales of Tails, 1899

I was very much interested in the report of Medicus on woodchuck shooting which was published in a recent issue of *Shooting and Fishing*, but was sorry to learn that the genial Major Shorkley was not more discriminating. He does well to shoot his 'chucks always in the head, but how about shooting them at all after they have surrendered their tails? Is this not rank treachery? No doubt that poor chuck thought itself immune, and did not dream of further trouble, else it never would have allowed the major to approach so near. If such betrayals are to continue, I doubt not the compact will be broken, and the major will have to get a longer range gun for harvesting his tails. However, it is possible it was all a mistake. In such case I advise the major in future to make closer inspection through his scope, and so avoid this serious charge.

There is no doubt about the innocent and confiding ways of *Arctomys Monax* as described by Medicus, as my own experience confirms. On one occasion, not so long ago, I was hunting them with a companion in the valley of the Connecticut. While driving we discovered a woodchuck motionless, and no doubt entranced in contemplation of the glories of this famed valley, in which it dwelt. We had hunted for several days, and the chucks had begun to catch on, so to speak, to what we were after, and had surrendered several of their tails quite willingly, as Medicus describes; but this chuck was evidently oblivious to our presence, as no tail was forthcoming, so my companion alighted, and resting his rifle upon the roadside fence, took deliberate aim and fired, then climbed the fence and proceeded to look for his 'chuck, but no chuck could be found, nor evidences of a hit, as the rifle cracked I had seen from the buggy something thrown in our direction, and so advised my companion, who searching as directed, soon picked up the tail this chuck must have thrown at us as the woodchuck hastily disappeared in its burrow.

There may be some Doubting Thomases who will say this true tale is no better than a fish yarn, but I can vouch for its truth, as I saw the woodchuck with only its head and shoulders protruding above or out of its hole, the excavated earth from the hole lying in the direction of the shooter, to have reached this chuck's tail as it sat when fired at the bullet should have traversed at least one yard of solid earth, which it could not and did not do, as there was no evidence of it having struck the earth in that vicinity. There is but one explanation: that woodchuck must have thrown its tail at us, as above described.

No doubt the major's chucks take off their tails more gracefully, they are better trained; but for agility in unhooking I think these Connecticut valley chucks would be hard to beat.

J. Francis. Boston.



J. Busfield



N. S. Brockway



E. A. Leopold



John Buccie

Bullet for Woodchuck Shooting

This is the season of the year when a number of the members of the Massachusetts Rifle Association start on their annual hunting trips for big game. Major C. W. Hinman left Boston on Thursday last for northern Maine, Major C. C. Foster, surgeon of the Fifth Massachusetts Infantry, has started for Colorado, for elk bunting. Mr. S. W. Card leaves this week for New Brunswick, Mr. Arthur L. Brackett, who has passed the summer on the St. Marguerite river in Quebec, salmon fishing, has remained over at Bethel, Me., for shooting, and will not return to Boston until October. Lucius L. Hubbard is still in the Maine woods. There are several other riflemen away from home, game shooting, and among the shotgun men there are many participating in the pleasures of woodcock and grouse shooting. The absence of so many active shooters causes a slim attendance at the weekly shoots at Walnut Hill.

A few days ago I met the well known rifleman, Mr. J. Francis, a man rich in rifle lore, and an untiring experimenter. He had a noticeable air of sagaciousness about him as he took from his pocket a small package and deliberately unrolled the paper which enveloped it.

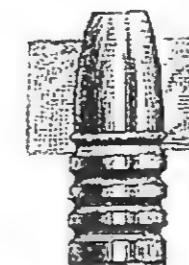
"How is that for a woodchuck bullet?" he remarked as he submitted a .32-caliber for my inspection. It was a bullet made in the 165-grain mold, but through the bullet, from the first cannelure to within about an eighth of an inch of the point, was a piece of paper. The object of this projectile was at once apparent.

Mr. Francis wished to shoot a .32-40 Ballard rifle. The chamber of this rifle was found to be long enough to use a longer shell than the regular .32-40, and some extra long shells were procured. Into this shell Mr. Francis puts about ten grains of S.K. powder, and the balance being Hazard's No. 3 Ducking powder. This charge is estimated to equal 63 grains of ordinary F.G. powder, which gives a very flat curve to the bullet in its flight. But, to return to the bullet, it is believed that this bullet will, on striking the woodchuck, or any soft skinned animal, open or expand so as to make an instantaneously fatal wound.

I was asked if I had ever seen a bullet like the one in question, and I was obliged to dampen my friend's ardor a little by telling him that I had seen such bullets several years ago.

Mr. Francis informed me that he can mold these bullets with considerable speed. He has a number of pieces of paper cut to the right size before beginning his work, and placed near his melting kettle. Each time he molds a bullet, before closing the mold, he places a piece of paper in the mold, and after the bullets are cast and cold the paper outside the bullet can be detached or trimmed off.

(see page 25 for story.)



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It pans out as he reasons. The shooters blow in, between them, say \$25, and the club is out \$25, besides its expenses. On the other hand, take that \$53 and put it into ten or twelve merchandise prizes, drawing upon the imagination, if you will, for their valuation, and you have enough to go round, especially if there are several matches rest, offhand, pistol, etc.; the beginner feels elated at the possibility of winning a prize; values are lost sight of, and a real competition ensues for top place. Probably-almost invariably-some lesser light gets a streak of shooting on and makes Smith hustle for first place, and everybody has a good time, for it is a good, healthy race, and when the accounts are balanced the club is ahead.

There is no theorizing in the above illustrations. They are cold, hard facts, brought under the personal observation of the writer during the past five years. It is astonishing how a man will fight for a trophy. I have seen a competitor in a military match buy \$19 worth of tickets to win a cup costing \$8 or \$10, when in a later match that same man scanned a list of money prizes carefully to see if he stood a chance of getting his money back. And the cup match paid, while the cash match went behind two-thirds of the value of the prizes.

The development of the bicycle has carried with it the change from a sprocket wheel and chain to bevel gears, but the latest improvement at Walnut Hill has progressed in exactly the opposite direction. The old clock dial indicators, for marking shots, were made with bevel gears, a rod from the driving gear reaching well down into the pit, and having a short lever attached at right angles for operating the hand on the dial, as the natural wear and tear on the gear, together with the added effect of the general cussedness of the boy markers, rendered the marking inaccurate and caused no end of trouble, the inventive brain of Mr. Chase was called upon to supply the remedy, and be, a bicycle crank, too, produced an indicator with sprocket wheels and a bicycle chain, which works perfectly and appears strong enough to require a safe-breaking kit to tamper with it in any way. One can't tell, though, where boys are concerned.

And that reminds me. I was told the other day of a case in which the eighteen months old child of a friend of mine succeeded in breaking a metal inkstand with its unaided hands. They afterward tried to break up the rest with a hammer.

That 39, Columbia count, made by J. E. Kelley on April 1, is liable to stand as a M. R. A. record for some time to come, and it was made with a common Winchester rifle, with greased bullets, too. Two years ago nobody but the military shooters used greased bullets at Walnut Hill. Now but one shooter besides the rest cranks uses patched bullets, and he shoots a .35 caliber rifle, for which no satisfactory greased bullet has yet appeared.

A number of the captured Spanish Mauser rifles found their way to Boston, and some time

The One That Broke Away

The One That Broke Away.

I saw it but a moment,
A Fish so mighty shy,
I was just a little startled
As I saw it seize my fly.

I had hooked it fair and Well;
To the net I drew It near,
But when I thought it captured
It broke the leader clear.

For hours and hours I've seen it,
In dreams by night and day;
No fish I've caught was half so large
As the one that broke away.

~~~~~

## J. D. Kelley's Rifle

In my last letter I inadvertently stated that Mr. Pope made the bullets I used in making the possible several weeks ago. This was not the case, as I make all the bullets I use myself. Mr. Pope, however, fitted the bullet for this rifle and made the mould. This rifle passed through a good many expert hands before it reached its almost perfect condition.

Mr. Rabbeth, who shoots at Walnut Hill, mounted the Malcolm telescope on it with his device; the late George Schalck, of Pottsville, Pa., recut and muzzled it; H. M. Pope, of Hartford, Conn., bushed the rifle for a .38-55 shell, fitted the bullet, and made a guide starter, I then sent the gun to Mr. Tisdel, the noted gun maker of Scranton, Pa., who put a crosspiece on the barrel and a lock on the muzzle to keep it from rising while the bullet is being shoved through the muzzle into the barrel. It will be seen from this that it passed through a good many hands before it suited me.

John D. Kelly, Williamsport, Pa.



Savage Model 99 .303 caliber

## The Revolver 1897

In accordance with Emigrant's suggestion I have thought the following might interest some of my fellow revolver enthusiasts. My hobby is the heavy revolver; in fact, I have never yet found one to shoot a charge heavy enough to suit me. The velocity of the .45 Colt is very low compared to any rifle of the same caliber, and the bullet is also lighter. The .44 W. C. F. cartridge is rather inaccurate, and, though the velocity is a bit better than the .45, the bullet is even lighter.

During the past summer I have tried many experiments with explosive bullets in Colt Frontier revolvers with the W. C. F. shell. The explosive mixture was from 2 to grains, per cent forcite, moistened with liquid camphor; and sealed with a grease disk. This mixture in a well proportioned bullet that is, one having a thick base is very good. The explosion is retarded until the bullet is well in the game, and then takes place with great suddenness. Owing to the base of bullet being too thin, I have had three such bullets explode in the revolver, but without any serious consequences to begot but the barrel.

Lately, however, I have discarded the explosive bullet for an express of my own design. The bullet is in the main an ordinary express, with a very wide penning and having a pillar rising from the base of cavity flush with the outer edges. This pillar is slightly conical, and does not entirely fill the cavity, but leaves an annular or tube shaped hollow for the entrance of material to cause mushrooming. (see photo on page 29.)

The effect of this bullet on game is the same as a very hollow express on soft tissue and as a solid bullet on bone. I have used such a bullet weighing 385 grains in a .45-90 W. C. F. shell, using a load of 20 grains FG, 30 grains FFG, and 40 grains FFFG, loading in the order named, the whole primed with the 2 1/2 W primer. I have found this load eminently satisfactory as regards accuracy, trajectory, and especially shock.

In the revolver I have used annular express bullets weighing 245 to 265 grains (I prefer the heavier), with a charge of 34 to 36 grains (by Ideal Powder flask) FFFG of American Powder Mills make, primed with a 1 W primer. When used in a 7 1/2 inch barrel Colt, with a tight fit between barrel and cylinder, this load is superior to the factory .38-55-255 Winchester as regards effect on game up to 200 yards.

It seems absurd to think of using a revolver on game beyond 100 yards, both on account of the inaccuracy of the weapon and its comparative weakness. But let every doubter give this load a fair trial, and if he does not change his mind in regard to the power of a revolver I am much mistaken.

Another load which I have used much and found very satisfactory, especially as regards accuracy, cleanliness, and power is as follows: .44 W. C. F. shell, 35 grains FFFG (measured American Powder Mills), No. 1 W primer, 253-grain resized Russian S. & W. bullet, temper about 1 to 16. This load gives excellent penetration and range, and is wonderfully accurate and clean, I have fired over 150 shots in two hours with a Colt Frontier single action without cleaning in any way, and without any sign of frosting, the barrel being as clean as that of a .22 long-rifle cartridge. I attribute this cleanliness as much to my lubricant as to the powder and priming. The former is composed of 1 part paraffin to about 5 of vaseline, mixed hot and applied in the usual way.

A third charge is: .44 W. C. F. shells, 40 grains FFPG, No. 1 W primer, 217-grain ordinary bullet. This charge is much superior to the factory .44-40, when used in revolvers, as to accuracy, cleanliness, and power.

In all the above loads power has been sought at the expense, of course, of a little heavier recoil, but not enough to be at all objectionable to the average man. In order to appreciate the force of these cartridges they should be fired at night, when it will be observed there is absolutely no

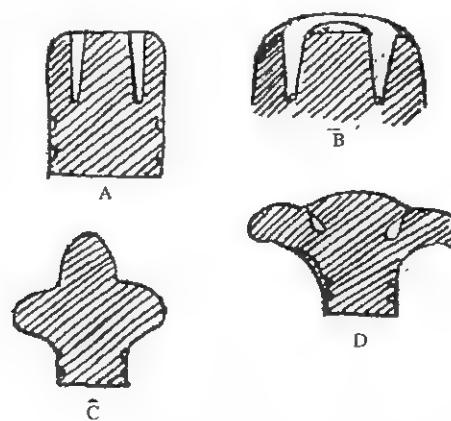
sparking on the muzzle, the flash being only about a foot in length and entirely gaseous. In other words, the whole load is consumed and utilized inside the barrel, and the power is thus about equal to the same cartridge with slower powder used in a rifle of the proper length. The range of such a revolver would be limited by the skill of the shooter.

It is a fact that a good revolver shot can do better work, range for range, up to the limit of accuracy of his revolver than the average sportsman in quest of big game can with a rifle, and yet these men do bag a good deal of game at pretty good ranges.

I have always thought the revolver a much underrated weapon for sporting purposes, and since experimenting with the above loads am thoroughly convinced of the fact. I should be glad to hear from any person who has made any experiments with heavy revolver loads, and also from anybody who can tell me of a really accurate load to use with the Ideal 110-grain .38-44 bullet in the Smith & Wesson .38-44 target revolver.

Concerning Emigrant's .32-20 reduced charge in a Frontier revolver, I doubt very much if such ones would suit him. Some years ago I tried many loads in the .32-20 shell, but could get no good results using them in a revolver. Has Emigrant considered the .38-44 Smith & Wesson, the .32 long Smith & Wesson, and the .32 Colt New Police? These cartridges are powerful, very accurate, and the last two quite cheap. The .32-44 would suit Emigrant, I should think, as many different charges can be used and the ammunition is easy to load.

Boston, Mass. C. E. Taylor.



A - Shows section of such a bullet. B - perspective section of forward half.

C - Section of bullet after penetrating soft tissue, and with solid point ready for bone smashing.

D - Section of bullet after hitting a bone near the surface, being practically a solid bullet.

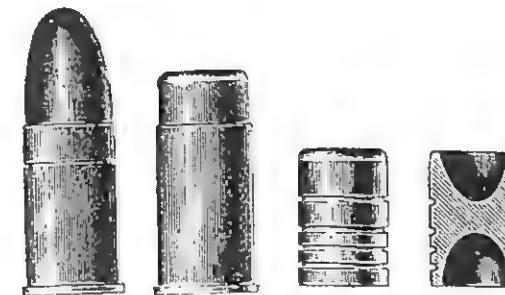
## The Webley Bullet

The circular says that a revolver bullet should be of large caliber and so formed that it would expend its whole force on the object hit, instead of passing on with undiminished velocity after making a clean hole, the object being to secure a weapon that would instantly stop an enemy fired at when at close range. Continuing Messrs. Webley say:

We do not know who is responsible for the design of the Government service bullet for revolvers, but a greater absurdity could not well have been perpetrated. The accompanying illustration of the service bullet is sufficient to convince even a tyro that the projectile was designed for long range shooting, and if fired from a rifle it would no doubt give excellent results at a range of 500 yards. To prove that the service bullet is utterly devoid of stopping properties, unless it strikes a vital part, we fired it through 18 inches of solid beef, with the result that the projectile was uninjured and could have been reloaded and fired a number of times. After the passage of the projectile the hole in the beef closed up, and an examination had to be made to discover the points of entry and exit.

Messrs. P. Webley & Son's patent man stopping bullets are made of lead of the form shown in the cuts, and it will be noticed that the expansive principle has been carried to its greatest extent, and there cannot be the slightest doubt as to their stopping properties.

"Upon entering the flesh, the front of the bullet acts like a wadding punch, cutting out a clean round hole, which does not close up. Expansion commences immediately, and after the bullet has traveled 6 inches it produces a jagged hole from 3 to 4 inches in diameter. A wound such as this would doubtless be sufficient to instantly finish even a fanatic. With regard to accuracy, the new bullet is superior to the service bullet. This is due to the lessened recoil and jump of the pistol".



Government and Webley Cartridges.

The Webley Bullet, Elevation and Section.



Webley Bullets, after passing through 6 inches of flesh.

## A Canadian Rifleman's Views of American Match Rifle-Shooting

From the Canadian Militia Gazette.

Smith, of Kazubazua, dropped in to see me a day or two ago, looking well and hearty. He had just returned from Boston, Mass., and whilst there looked up shooting matters, with the view of picking up a few wrinkles for his own advantage. He told me that the shooting men he had met appeared to have but one solitary idea, and that was to fire, standing at 200 yards, with specially made rifles, at a "decimal" target, which is a target showing ten divisions on its face, the highest counting 10 and descending in degree to the ignoble miss. This is the "proper caper to day, and it will in a few years fade away, as has done the "long range" shooting, of which only the memory exists. Smith says the shooting is fine, but, when viewed from a military standpoint, is utterly useless, he had an opportunity of looking at the rifle used by one who is styled in a most laudatory manner "one of the strongest and finest off-hand short range rifle-shots in America," and found it to be a 38-caliber rifle, taking 255 grains of lead and 50 grains of powder. The possessor of this rifle does not condescend to use loaded ammunition, but keeps a pet shell, which he reloads after every shot, wiping it with extreme care on the outside, and scraping its inside with a special steel tool to remove the fouling. After this shell has been carefully loaded and the bullet properly seated, then attention is paid to the rifle, the bore of which is scrubbed to a state of cleanliness and brightness calculated to suit the most fastidious taste. A wind-gauge foresight, and a minutely divided orthoptic back sight, take the place of those crude affairs on the rifle placed in the hands of ordinary, common soldiers; and then, the "pull-off" must not exceed 8 lbs.... A target with an 8-inch bull is scorned, in fact, is an antiquated, old-fogy affair; and this fine rifle can only be shot at a minutely divided target, on which a score of a million or less can be made.

The rifle used by another celebrated off-hand shot at baby ranges is such a serviceable, war-like, useful weapon, that the following description of it, culled from *The Rifle*, a paper published in Boston, U.S., and entirely devoted to the glorification of short range shooting, may prove to be interesting: "The rifles used are curiosities in their way. Wishing to secure as much metal as possible in the barrels, he devised many ways of dispensing with what he considered superfluous parts, by means of which he could secure an unusually heavy barrel, and still be within the rules in regard to the weight of the rifle. The barrel was unusually long and very thick; the forestock was dispensed with, and the stock hollowed out, so that nearly the whole weight of the rifle was in the barrel. The hollow stock was very long, being 22 inches from the trigger to the end of the stock, which was covered with canvas in place of an iron buttplate. Attached to the barrel was a small piece of wood, which was grasped firmly when aiming. The position adopted the left arm is extended and entirely free from the body, the rifle is pressed against the shoulder with all the strength he possesses, until the shoulderblade protrudes to such an extent as to give him the appearance of a hump-back."

Now, as a "long-stock" Snider, or M. H., measures 14  $\frac{1}{3}$  inches from the trigger to the heel-plate, Smith is laboring under the impression that the creator of these unique shooting machines must have a very flexible and accommodating Smith tells me that the souls of these shooting men are vexed, perturbed, and perplexed over the proper kind of target they are to fire at in the future. Those at present in use are too coarse, or antiquated; and great are the discussions over this extremely important question; and it must be important, when such minute measurements as 17  $\frac{11}{100}$  and 22  $\frac{48}{100}$  are adopted.

Now what is the good of all this fancy work it is not in any sense military, nor in any way of practical value. Good, sensible, serviceable shooting at 200 yards, is that which is made with a military rifle, and in a military position; all else is pure vainglory. *Smith's Friend.*

There is much in the above statement which will greatly amuse not only the riflemen of Boston and vicinity, but of the entire country where shooting with the match rifle is popular. Smith's friend, who sees the folly of rifle shooting with a match rifle, through the statement of his friend who came to Boston and heard somebody else tell about the manner some other fellows shoot, and through this slightly roundabout channel, has grasped the whole question and pointed out its absurdities in the above communication.

There is one point it would be well for such correspondents to be informed upon, which is the ability of a practical rifleman, skilful in the use of the match rifle, to apply that knowledge to the cruder military arm, by which the strength of nations is so largely measured.

To illustrate our meaning we would call attention to the work performed by Mr. F. J. Rabbeth, who has probably fired as many shots from a match rifle, such as Smith's friend calls fancy work, as any man in America, when the last international team was made up this gentleman contested for a place upon the team, and made, with a military arm, the highest average shooting made by any individual contesting. With a military arm at rest (on the skirmish line soldiers need a knowledge of rest shooting) he has made the highest score ever made in America.

Another skilful rifleman is Charles W. Hinman, who seldom shoots at short range anything but a match rifle. He shot upon the last international team which contested with our British cousins at Wimbledon, and had the remainder of the team equalled his score the match would have resulted in a victory for the American team.

At the last meeting of the Massachusetts militia, competing with the picked riflemen of the State, this gentlemen led with a score over all competitors.

We would also mention Mr. George F. Ellsworth, one of the best and most enthusiastic match rifle shooter, who probably has never fired a hundred shots from a military arm, recently borrowed one of these weapons, and before he had fired twenty shots scored 33 out of a possible 35, at the 200-yard range. Still another case is cited of J. B. Fellows, who recently scored 80 upon the Standard American target, counting 47 out of 50 Creedmoor target; and this before he had fired a score of shots. Many other similar cases might be mentioned.

A visitor to Walnut Hill will frequently witness men who have never fired a shot from a military rifle, in their first trial surpass the soldier who has given much attention to practicing with this arm, and scoring from 42 to 48 out of a possible 50, rarely going below the first figures. The same is doubtless true of all other clubs throughout the country where the match-rifle is chiefly in use. In England and her possessions, most of the finest rifle shots belong to the military; in America, as a rule, the finest marksmen are civilians; but could a team be made up of picked men, noted for their skill with the match rifle, from the clubs of East and West, we believe, with one hundred practice shots, they could be led on to victory at short range, with military arms, against any team the world could produce. The highest skill is necessary to secure prominence with a match-rifle, and proficiency with this arm can readily be utilized in the use of the military rifle.

## Record of American Rifle Shooting

The following scores are, so far as is known by the publisher of this journal, the best on record in America, in the various styles of rifle shooting. A complete or perfect record is not claimed; but it will serve as a groundwork for perfecting this important and interesting work, to accomplish which no efforts will be spared. Riflemen throughout this country will confer a great favor upon their brother riflemen by advising the publisher of this journal of scores exceeding those herewith given, or, so far as they know, of the best on record, in regular matches only, of scores not here recorded.

This department will be kept standing from month to month, with a view of perfecting the record of American rifle shooting, as new scores are made, superior to those recorded, they will be duly published in the place of the one excelled, and left standing until the record is broken. Where perfection is attained they will be left permanently recorded.

A score to be recognized as a record must be shot on a regular appointed day, in a prize competition, or in a competition of record. Practice scores are not considered a record. A certificate of the correctness of the score from the secretary of the club to which the shooter belongs, or of the club where the score was made, should accompany each score sent to this office for record.

### The Record.

Greatest number of consecutive bull's-eyes made in a regular match, with a sporting-rifle, under ten pounds in weight, and a three-pound trigger-pull, and in all respects under the shooting-rules of the National Rifle Association:

### Creedmoor Count.

(Off-hand; distance, 200 yards; sporting rifle).

E. F. Richardson, Lawrence, Mass., July 11, 1885,  
31 consecutive bull's-eyes.

(300 yards; off-hand; 10 shots, possible 50).

W. E. Fitch, Albany, N.Y., Jan. 30, 1884.....48

### Third Class Target.

(7 shots; possible 35).

O. M. Jewell, Walnut Hill, Mass., Sept., 1879.....34  
(600 yards; off-hand; 10 shots; possible 50).  
W. E. Fitch, Albany, N.Y., Jan. 25, 1883.....48

### Massachusetts Decimal Target.

(200 yards; off-hand; 10 shots; possible 100).

E. F. Richardson, Walnut Hill, Mass., Aug. 29, 1885.....94  
Otto Jaeger, Wheeling, W. Va., June to, 1885.....94  
(7 shot matches; possible 70).  
Clarence D. Palmer, Walnut Hill, Mass., Oct. 10, 1885.....68

### American Decimal Target.

(200 yards; 10 shots; possible 100).

Wm. B. Gage, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Dec. 18, 1885.....95  
(7 shots, possible 70).  
A. C. White, Worcester, Mass., Oct. 3, 1883.....68

### Standard American Target.

(200 yards; off-hand; 10 shots; possible 100).

F. J. Rabbeth, Walnut Hill, Jan. 23, 1886.....89  
E. M. Rockwell, Leominster, Mass., Jan. 5, 1886.....89

### Rest Matches

### Massachusetts Decimal Target.

(200 yards; 10 shots; possible 100).

F. J. Rabbeth, Walnut Hill, Mass., 1882.....100  
" " 1882.....100  
C. H. Brown, " 1885.....100  
" Sept. 5, 1885.....100  
J. N. Frye Oct. 17, 1885.....100  
" Oct. 29, 1885.....100  
Nov. 21, 1885.....100  
D. L. F. Chase. Nov. 28, 1885.....100

### German Ring Target.

With rifle allowed under the rules of the National Rifle Association of America.

(200 yards, off-hand; 10 shots; possible 250).

G. R. Russell, Walnut Hill, Mass.....221

(200 yards; off-hand; shots; possible 125).

P. W. Perkins, Oak Island, Aug. 15, 1884.....115

### 1,000 Yard Record.

(30 Shots, possible 150).

W. Milton Farrow, in Wimbledon Cup-Match,  
at Creedmoor Fall Meeting, 1880, made.....145

## Long Range Record.

(Target rifle. 800, 900, 1,000 yards; 45 shots; possible 225).

|                                                           |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Charles W. Hinman, Walnut Hill, Mass., Aug. 24, 1881..... | 224 |
| William Gerrish, Walnut Hill, Mass., Sept. 15, 1880.....  | 224 |

## Military Record.

### Short, Middle, and Long Range Military Record.

(7 shots at 200, 500, 600, 800, 900, and 1,000 yards; 42 shots; possible 210)

|                                                  |     |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Robert McVittie, Creedmoor, September, 1882..... | 189 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|

## Off Hand Military Record.

### Standard American Target.

|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| John S. Shepherd, N.Y., Dec. 31, 1885.....  | 85 |
| F. J. Rabbeth, Walnut Hill, Jan., 1886..... | 85 |

## Creedmoor Target.

(200 yards; 10 shots; possible 50).

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| C. W. Hinman ..... | 49 |
|--------------------|----|

## German Ring Target

### (with Military Rifle).

(200 yards; 10 shots; possible 250).

|                                                          |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| T. B. Wilson, W. Springfield, Mass., March 11, 1885..... | 218 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|

## Massachusetts Decimal Target.

|                                                   |    |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|
| J. A. Jacobs, High Bridge, Pa., Aug. 3, 1885..... | 87 |
| F. J. Rabbeth (Rest).....                         | 95 |

## Third Class Target.

(300 yards (kneeling or sitting).

|                                                |    |
|------------------------------------------------|----|
| R. B. Edes, Waltham, Mass., Oct. 17, 1885..... | 47 |
|------------------------------------------------|----|

## Clean Scores.

Folling is a list of parties whom we have recorded at the office of *The Rifle* as making clean or perfect scores often consecutive bull's-eyes, in regular matches, at 200 yards' distance, off-hand viz., with a rifle under ten pounds in weight, with a trigger-pull of not less than three pounds, and in all respects under the rules of the National Rifle Association of America. Arranged alphabetically, with the dates upon which they were made:

Arnold, N. W.: Walnut Hill, Mass., 1879.

Gerrish William Walnut Hill, Mass., Sept. 15, 1880.

Bixby, H. G: Walnut Hill, Mass., March 18, 1881 ; Dec. 26, 1881 ; April 6, 1882 ; April 6, 1882; Aug. 4, 1882; Jan. 1, 1883, Jan. 1, 1883; Nashua, N.H.; December, 1881; December, 1881 ; Springfield, Mass., Oct. 31, 1882; Sept. 12, 1883.

Brockway, N.S.: Brattleboro, Vt., May 12, 1884.

Cobb, C. L.: Brattleboro, Vt., May 12, 1884.

Cram, E.J.: Walnut Hill, Mass., April, 1881.

Dodge, I. N.: Gardner, Mass., Feb. 14, 1882; April 8, 1882.

Ellsworth, G. F.: Walnut Hill, Mass.\*

Farrow, W. Milton: Creedmoor, Oct. 22, 1879; Walnut Hill, Mass., 1880

Fellows, J. B.: Walnut Hill, Mass., March 29, 1884.

Fitch, Win. E.: Albany, N.Y., Feb. 24, 1883; April 2, 1885.

Gage, WM. B.: Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Dec. 18, 1885; Dec. 24, 1885.

Gaus, Charles H. Albany, N. Y., March 29, 1883.

Hinman, C. W.: Medford, Mass., 1881; Walnut Hill, Mass., January, 1882; June 6, 1882; April 23, 1885.

Hubbard, L. L. Walnut Hill, Mass., Feb., 1883.

Huggins, T. A.: Thomas, Pa., March 5, 1885.

Jaeger, Otto, Wheeling, W. Va., June 10, 1885.

Jackson, W. H. H.: Walnut Hill, Mass., 1880.

Jewell, O. M.: Walnut Hill, Mass.\*

McIntyre, J. D. Dover, N.H., Sept. 12, 1885.

Nash, N. C.: Walnut Hill, Mass., Jan. 31, 1885.

Richardson, E. F.: Walnut Hill, Mass., Feb. 26, 1881 ; Sept. 3, 1881 ; Aug. 5, 1882 ; Aug. 12, 1882 Aug. 26, 1882 Nov. 4, 1882 Lawrence, Mass., July 11 ; July 11 1885 ; July 25, 1885; Aug. 29, 1885 ; Jan. 16, 1886.

Russell, G. R. : Jan. 2, 1886.

Sumner, J. S.: Walnut Hill, Mass., Feb. 28, 1880.

Taft, W. H.: Brattleboro, Vt., April 11, 1885.

Wentworth, G. H.: Dover, N.H., March 22, 1884; Sept. 26, Oct. 16, 1885; Nov. 26, 1885.

White, A C. Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 19, 1881.

Parties in the United States having made perfect scores under the above conditions are requested to forward the same to the office of this publication, certified to by the secretary of their association, with date upon which they were made, when they will be recorded in their proper place.

\* These parties have made several clean scores, but have not yet supplied the dates.



## Winchester

**WINCHESTER**  
**RIFLES AND**  
**AMMUNITION**

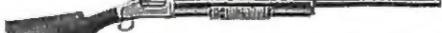
Are The Best.





Rifles for Hunting.

**Winchester Repeating Shotguns**



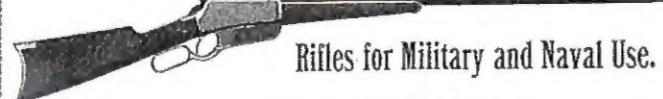
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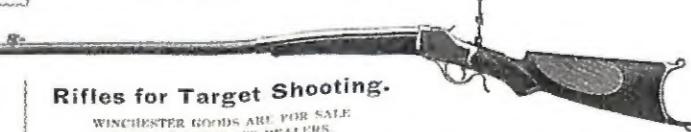
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## A Rifle Woman of Walnut Hill



Colt Lightning Rifle

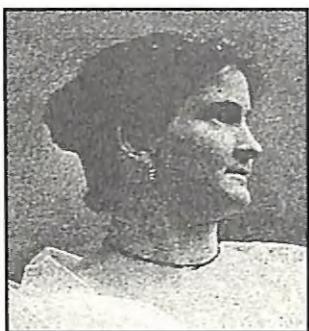
## Walnut Hill Member's



J. B. Fellows



G. R. Russell



S. E. Briggs



O. M. Jewell



Orrin R. Dickey



F. J. Rabbeth



H. M. Pope



Adolph Strecker



A. H. Pape



D. L. F. Chase



Dr. S. A. Skinner



G. R. Harris



G. H. Wentworth



J. E. Kelley



Eugene E. Patridge



N. C. Nash 2nd.

## Thomas Anderton

...A TRUE AIM..

WITH A

### Smith & Wesson Revolver or Pistol



WILL REACH  
the Highest  
Pinnacle in  
Shooting

The Smith & Wesson pistol and the hand of Thomas Anderton that made a perfect score of 100 on a practice gun in ten shots on the Standard American target at 50 yards, at range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, Walnut Hill, Mass., May 13, 1897.

5 STOCKBRIDGE STREET,  
SMITH & WESSON, Springfield, Mass.

*Perfect Ammunition  
makes  
Perfect Scores.*



At the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, May 13, Thomas Anderton made a perfect score of 100 out of a possible 100, on the Standard American target, at 50 yards, with a .22 caliber pistol and

**U.M.C. LONG-RIFLE  
CARTRIDGES.**

But three perfect scores have ever been made under these standard conditions.  
All were made with UNION METALLIC CARTRIDGE CO.'S CARTRIDGES.

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**The  
superiority  
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Ammunition  
in gun, rifle,  
or pistol  
has brought  
the art of  
shooting to  
perfection.**

## M.R.A. Silver Record Cups 1897

**January 1, 1898.** The Massachusetts Rifle Association has recently adopted a plan of awarding cups for those members who hold records in the different styles of rifle, revolver, and pistol shooting, or to those who surpass previous records. According to this plan, members holding records on single scores in the different styles of shooting on January 1, 1898, shall have a cup, and anyone breaking those records or equaling the perfect scores shall also receive a cup, provided, however, that no one person shall receive more than one cup representing the same department of shooting; but in case a member breaks his own record or makes a perfect score, the record shall be engraved upon the cup already possessed by that member.

These record cups are of sterling silver of special and appropriate design, and contains these words: Massachusetts Rifle Association Record; then comes a gold eagle's head followed by the inscription.

This plan of awarding a trophy for establishing and breaking records is an excellent one. It preserves the records in an almost unperishable way, and prevents uncertainties as to performances as time goes on. Few but those who have tried to keep the records accurate can understand how time obliterates performances that have been trusted to memory or to print. This association has found considerable trouble in securing the records in some styles of shooting, but by the foregoing plan records will probably be as indelible as is possible with no clouds of doubt surrounding them. The trophies are of such character as to cause them to be carefully guarded by the makers of the records and their descendants, and there will be a great incentive to break the records or add fresh inscriptions to those already won. Carefully and thoroughly is this work being done by the Massachusetts Rifle Association; in some instances holders of records are believed to be dead, and if such proves to be the case a cup will be delivered to the heirs of the deceased.

At the present time these records have been recognized by the association:

**Rifle at Rest (telescope sight), 200 yards, Standard American target.**

Henry L. Willard, June 22, 1895 (perfect score).....120

Aug. 28, 1897 Sept. 3, 1895.....120

**Military Rifle. U.S. Springfield, rifle, 200 yards, offhand, Creedmoor target.**

Chas. W. Hinman, July 11, 1880.....5 5 5 5 5 5 5 4 5=49

**Offhand (German ring target), 200 yards, 10 shots. possible 250.**

Herbert E. Tuck, Feb. 22, 1897.....234

**Pistol, 50 yards, Standard American target, 10 shots, possible 100.**

Henry S. Harris, Dec. 31, 1890.....10 10 9 10 10 10 10 10 10 10=99

**Revolver, 50 yards, Standard American target, 10 shots, possible 100.**

Louis Bell, July 17, 1897.....97

*No restrictions as to ammunition or time \**

**Revolver, 50 yards, Standard American target, six shots in one minute.**

Eugene E. Patridge, Dec. 25, 1890 8 10 10 10 10 10=58

*(Full charges factory ammunition)\**

*\* Not on cups.*

## Walnut Hill Gleanings

**November 27, 1897.** Whew, what a blizzard ! Yesterday was a weather breeder if ever there was such a thing, and today (Nov. 27) brings the result. Sitting at my desk I can scan the country to a distance of twelve or fifteen miles in all directions, and it appears to me as if those who have been longing for a little winter weather should be satisfied. Ever since 8 o'clock last night a northeaster has been howling away at my front door with a clean sweep of miles. The morning light revealed a snow bank in the hall, where the force of the gale had sprung the heavy and heretofore wind-proof door. A score of times I have expected to see the lower window panes blown to pieces, but they are still intact. Talk of the brittleness of glass; why these panes, 30 x 28, have bulged in fully a half inch an indefinite number of times.

Yesterday was, as I before stated, a weather breeder. The sun rose clear, but shortly after, from my elevated perch, I could see ominous-looking clouds banking up on the horizon, the wind was light, scarcely perceptible at times, and with the gray light which soon came, I expected a good day at the range and hustled round in an attempt to get the 10:00 A.M. train, but was unable to get ready, so put in a little time patching bullets.

Quite a delegation of enthusiasts assembled on the noon train, and upon our arrival at Walnut Hill we found, as I had expected, good weather for shooting, with a light breeze, which at times, however, seemed to box the compass. This somewhat complicated matters, and an occasional emphatic expression denoted the fact that someone had got caught. Presently the word was passed round that the doctor had made 119 at rest. Upon investigation such was found to be the case, and the proud shooter was duly congratulated.

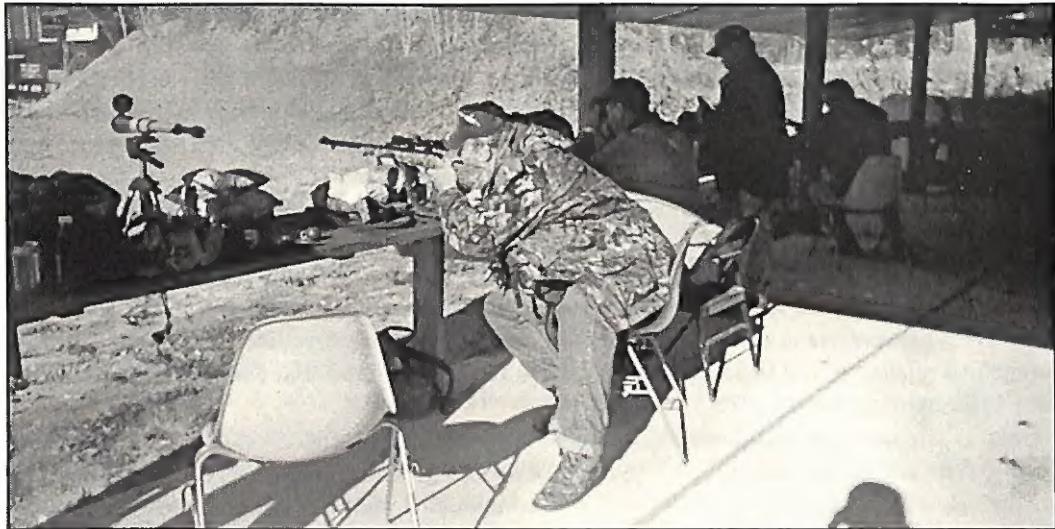
Probably Dr. Baker was the happiest man who left the range that night, and with good cause, too, being as he is a new hand at the bench rest for 200 yards shooting. Some years ago Dr. Baker was prominent among the shotgun contingent of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, but the interest in that branch dying out, he resigned. He lately became interested in rifle shooting, and during September last visited the range and shot a score with Willard's rifle, which counted 115. That settled it. He refused to let go of the gun and Willard was obliged to sell. A few days later, on an off day, Dr. Baker made 117 in practice, and since then has shot with remarkable steadiness, making frequent scores of 112 and upward, until yesterday, when he so nearly approached the possible. The doctor remarked to me that he would have given \$50 for a 12 in place of that 11, and from the way it was said he evidently meant it.

The serenity of the Massachusetts Rifle Association was recently disturbed by a land company, which, having purchased the land adjacent to the 200 yards pit, laid out the same into house lots and streets, and proceeded to protest against the continuance of shooting over the range. This was averted at some expense by the purchase by the M.R.A. of some forty odd house lots and part of a street to boot. Bulkheads are to be erected for additional protection of the same, and it is hoped there will be peace.

It having been stated several times of late that C. H. Taylor is a member of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, I feel obliged to state the contrary; that, although several times invited to become a member, he could not see the benefit to be derived from such a step, and has never done so. We consequently make the above denial.

F. J. Rabbeth has spent his last Saturday at the range this winter. He shortly leaves for California, of which fact friend Young will please make a note.

## The Black Powder Shooters of Walnut Hill



Bud Thibault August 10, 2002



Bill Tumbarello

July 7, 2002

Pat Spencer